

USAID Activity Report

STRENGTHENING PROTECTED AREA EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT IN PERU

Project # 527-A-00-01-00157-00 under LAG-A-00-99-00048-00

January 31, 2002

I. Summary of Activity Status and Progress

a. Introductory paragraph.

This new project aims to conserve Peru's biological diversity in four WWF Global 200 priority ecoregions: the Southwestern Amazonian Moist Forests, the Amazon River and Flooded Forests, the Northern Andes and the Humboldt Current. Together, these ecoregions are representative of some of the most globally outstanding terrestrial, freshwater and marine biomes and host an astonishing genetic diversity, a huge number of total species and endemisms and a wide array of ecosystems. With this project, the Peru Program Office (PPO) is working side by side with the Protected Areas agency (INRENA) and in close coordination with other agencies, projects and local NGO's to develop tools to address prevailing institutional weaknesses and conflicts within the SINANPE. Specifically, the PPO aims to increase management effectiveness in the SINANPE by improving monitoring and evaluation techniques, reviewing and resolving land tenure issues and conflicts, and updating the Paracas Master Plan.

b. Highlights.

- The preliminary scorecard for monitoring effective management of the SINANPE is complete, and is being evaluated by the Peruvian IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) Committee working group and in the field.
- The PPO developed a Strategic Plan identifying priority protected areas, which was discussed with INRENA in a series of meetings and recently submitted to INRENA for final approval. This Strategic Plan provides a concrete focus for efforts to resolve land tenure and boundary demarcation issues. Also, the CDC has created digitalized maps which will be useful in the process of settling land tenure issues.
- The Peruvian NGO Pro Naturaleza has been contracted to update the Paracas National Reserve Master Plan. Further, position descriptions for the Technical Team have been developed, and initial Terms of Reference for the design and update of this Master Plan and for the financial and technical sustainability plan have been produced.

c. Table of Activity Status

Activity Number	Activity Title	Status	Page number for more information
1	Effective management and Monitoring System of SINANPE	Ongoing	
2	Land tenure issues review and conflict resolution in the SINANPE protected area network	Ongoing	
3	Support for strengthening the Paracas National Reserve	Ongoing	

II. Detailed Description of Site Progress

For each site, please include the following information.

a. Key short and long-term program objectives for the site.

Project goals will be accomplished through three main objectives:

1. Promote the effective management in all 52 protected areas within the SINANPE protected area network through the development of an overall monitoring system to gauge effective management and conservation action impact.
2. Review and resolve land tenure issues and conflicts within 5* priority protected areas of the SINANPE.
3. Support the effective management of the Paracas National Reserve through the update of the Master Plan that defines priority conservation and threat mitigation activities and lays down a long-term financial and technical sustainability plan.

* In the original proposal, the PPO aimed to ensure that ten protected areas have defined and demarcated boundaries, but due to complexities discovered through the priority-setting process (discussed below) this number was reduced to five.

b. Summary of Progress for Site (if this provides added value or clarity, otherwise skip this)

c. Activity Description

ii. Summary paragraph and/or bullets of major achievements and progress during the reporting period

iii. Table of progress in meeting key activity benchmarks

iv. Key management issues (discussion of problems, delays, shortfalls, and proposed solutions)

i. Activity Title : Effective management and Monitoring System of SINANPE

ii. Summary of major achievements and progress

- The management monitoring scorecard for the SINANPE has been completed, and was distributed among Natural Protected Areas leaders for comment. The criteria for the scorecard are now being reviewed by the Peruvian IUCN Committee working group, comprised of INRENA and various NGO's, including the PPO, PROFONANPE (National Trust Fund for Natural Protected Areas), and the *Instituto de las Montañas*. INRENA, in a recent working group meeting, released a revised version of the scorecard enhanced with comments from Natural Protected Areas leaders. This revised version will be discussed at a working group meeting scheduled for mid-February.
- The scorecard implementation plan and timetable for all SINANPE areas have been given to Natural Protected Areas leaders, and will continue to be revised according to their feedback over the coming months.
- The PPO developed a Scope of Work for the consultant who will develop the Biological Monitoring System, and anticipates completing the hiring process and having the consultant on-board by the first week of February.

iii. Table of progress in meeting key activity benchmarks

Benchmark Number	Benchmark/Output	Status
1.1	Implementation of scorecard to Monitor Effective Management	
1.1.1	Validated and approved protected area management monitoring	Ongoing

	scorecard	
1.1.2	Scorecard implementation plan and timetable for all SINANPE protected areas	Ongoing
1.1.3	Baseline data (year 2001) of all SINANPE protected areas based on scorecard application	Pending
1.2	Biological Monitoring System Complete	
1.2.1	Completion of a set of preliminary indicator species, communities and ecological processes	Pending
1.2.2	Completion of variable and indicator monitoring protocols	Pending
1.3	Overall Monitoring System Complete	
1.3.1	Completion of SINANPE Overall Monitoring System	Pending
1.3.2	Implementation of Overall Monitoring System and activities timetable	Pending

iv. Key management issues

No obstacles were encountered for these preliminary activities during this three month period (November-January).

i. Activity Title : Land Tenure Issues Review and Conflict Resolution in the SINANPE Protected Area Network

ii. Summary of major achievements and progress

- The PPO, in coordination with INRENA, developed a Strategic Plan identifying priority protected areas within the SINANPE which will be used to resolve land tenure and boundary demarcation issues. The PPO attended several meetings with INRENA, PROFONANPE, and the inter-sectorial working group in order to determine, for example, which areas on which to focus attention, the primary needs in these areas, and financing for each. The PPO submitted the revised version of the Strategic Plan to INRENA for final approval, and aims to complete the priority setting process with one final meeting with INRENA in the coming month. Ultimately, through this priority setting process, the PPO and its partners decided to concentrate primarily on National Park areas, including those in Bahuaja Sonene, Huascarán, and Manu. Efforts will also focus on the Tambopata and Paracas National Reserves.
- The CDC, with partial funding from the PPO, finalized digitalized maps for selected protected areas. These maps were recently reviewed by INRENA and will now be an invaluable tool to resolving land tenure conflicts in the next phase of this project.

iii. Table of progress in meeting key activity benchmarks

Benchmark Number	Benchmark/Output	Status
2.1	Digitalized maps and ground-truthing implementation plan of SINANPE	Ongoing
2.2	At least 5 protected areas have defined and demarcated boundaries	Pending
2.3	Protected area boundary dispute resolution agreement documents	Pending
2.4	Omnibus bill final draft	Pending

iv. Key management issues

- INRENA encountered more complexities through this priority setting process than anticipated, delaying the process and leading to the decision to reduce the number of focus priority protected areas from ten to five. For example, before legal deed registration can be completed, numerous land rights claims within natural protected areas must be investigated to determine their validity, a process which can be lengthy and which incurs an administrative burden. INRENA also spent longer conducting this decision making process than planned.
- INRENA's revision of the digitalized maps submitted by the CDC also took longer than expected. These maps were necessary to move forward next steps with this project, and have only recently been finally approved by INRENA. Now that they are complete, the project can move forward at a more rapid pace.

i. Activity Title : Support for Strengthening of the Paracas National Reserve

ii. Summary of major achievements and progress

- The highly representative Inter-sectorial Assessment Committee which will be involved in the process of updating the Paracas Master Plan was officially established during this time period. This team, assembled by INRENA, consists of representatives from the Fishery Ministry, *Instituto del Mar del Perú* (IMARPE), International Resource Group (IRG), Tourism and International Commerce Ministry (MITINCI), Tourism and Ecological Police, Peruvian Coast Guard Office (DICAPI), National Cultural Institute (NCI), and other NGO's such as the PPO, The Nature Conservancy, ACOREMA, Huayuna Institute, Pro Naturaleza, and Gea-Peru. These organizations prepared and signed an Inter-institutional Agreement.
- INRENA, in collaboration with the Inter-sectorial Assessment Committee, identified local NGO's capable of administering project funds, and held an internal competition to choose the NGO most capable of managing the process. Ultimately, Pro Naturaleza was selected as a result of this process. Grant QL-50 with Pro Naturaleza was prepared and signed on December 6th, 2001.
- The PPO produced the Terms of Reference for the design and update of the Master Plan, which were then discussed and approved in a participative process involving the organizations mentioned above.
- Pro Naturaleza developed position descriptions which will be used to define and contract the Technical Team which will update the Reserve's Master Plan. This team will be composed of Biologist Luis Paz Soldan, former head of the Paracas National Reserve experienced in Natural Protected Area management; Fishing Engineer Julio Arenas, experienced in management of hydrobiological benthonics in Natural Protected Areas; and Biologist Raul Sanchez, experienced in data base production and management of Natural Protected Areas. Pro Naturaleza also produced a Work Plan for the Technical Team, detailing future activities.
- The Technical Team conducted an inventory of all informational resources available in order to begin updating the Master Plan as a Natural Protected Area Zone, and creating an Environmental and Communications Action Plan.
- The PPO produced the first draft of the Terms of Reference for the Financial and Technical Sustainability Plan, and Pro Naturaleza is currently reviewing this information.

iii. Table of progress in meeting key activity benchmarks

Benchmark Number	Benchmark/Output	Status*
3.1	Technical Team hired	Ongoing
3.2	Paracas National Reserve Master Plan consulted, validated, and approved by DGANP/INRENA	Ongoing

3.3	Financial and Technical Sustainability Plan (FTSP) validated and approved	Pending
3.4	Paracas National Reserve Master Plan and FTSP published and disseminated	Pending

iv. Key management issues

- No obstacles were encountered for these preliminary activities during the first three months of this project (November-January).

III. Success Stories and Other Appendices

When appropriate and possible, include one or more one-page success stories appropriate for public dissemination.